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BECKHAM SLIPS INTO SOMETHING EVEN MORE COMFORTABLE

NEW H&M LINE WAS A NATURAL FIT PAGE 15

Church not so 'infallible' to UN committee

UN rights committee issues scathing condemnation of the Vatican, urging it to change canon law to ensure rights and protections PAGE 8

Cultural death is true death, says Clooney

Actor explains how seeing the destruction of heritage in Sudan motivated him to work on the WWII movie The Monuments Men PAGE 13

This little piggy went to market — wait, just the one!?

Consumers could see a rise in pork prices if epidemic hurts Ontario's supply PAGE 9

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Experts warn that gutting Gardiner will doom drivers

Report reaction.
Demolition could see 20 minutes added to your daily commute

Tearing down the Gardiner Expressway east of Jarvis is not the best option for the crumbling structure, despite a new study that seems to favour demolition, experts say.

A city and Waterfront Toronto report released Wednesday ranked four options: maintaining, improving, replacing or removing the eastern stretch. Removal ranked highest in a number of areas, from benefits to cyclists and pedestrians to social and environmental concerns.

But removal was also the worst option for drivers, adding at least 10 minutes to commuter times each way.

And that's the category that counts most, experts say.

"The remove option is going to increase travel times in the city and also in the corridors which will be directly affected by it," said Murtaza Haider, a Ryerson University transportation expert.

Haider questioned a diagram that gave equal weight to categories like urban design and the environment. He said the two categories where removal ranked lowest, "automobiles" and "movement of goods" were the most important.

Tearing down the Gardiner would also aggravate Toronto's maxed-out public-transit system, Haider said.

He suggested repairs until public transit can be improved.

Baher Abdulhai, a civil engineer at U of T, said demolition was better for land-use but worse for traffic.

"Which is the lesser of two evils: losing the opportunity of better land use or adding to the existing traffic night mare?" he asked. "If downtown Toronto is the heart of the GTA, the Gardiner Expressway is the aorta. I am having hard time envisioning Toronto without an aorta."

One option he suggested was to reconsider burying the expressway and introducing tolls to offset the cost.

Architect and urbanist J. Michael Kirkland had a different view, saying the city was wasting its time only considering the stretch east of Jarvis and should instead tear down the section between York St. and Jarvis.

"The corridor to the waterfront is through the downtown.... It's like having a power pole go through your living room," he said.

The city would benefit by freeing up prime waterfront real estate, which would increase the city's tax base, he said.

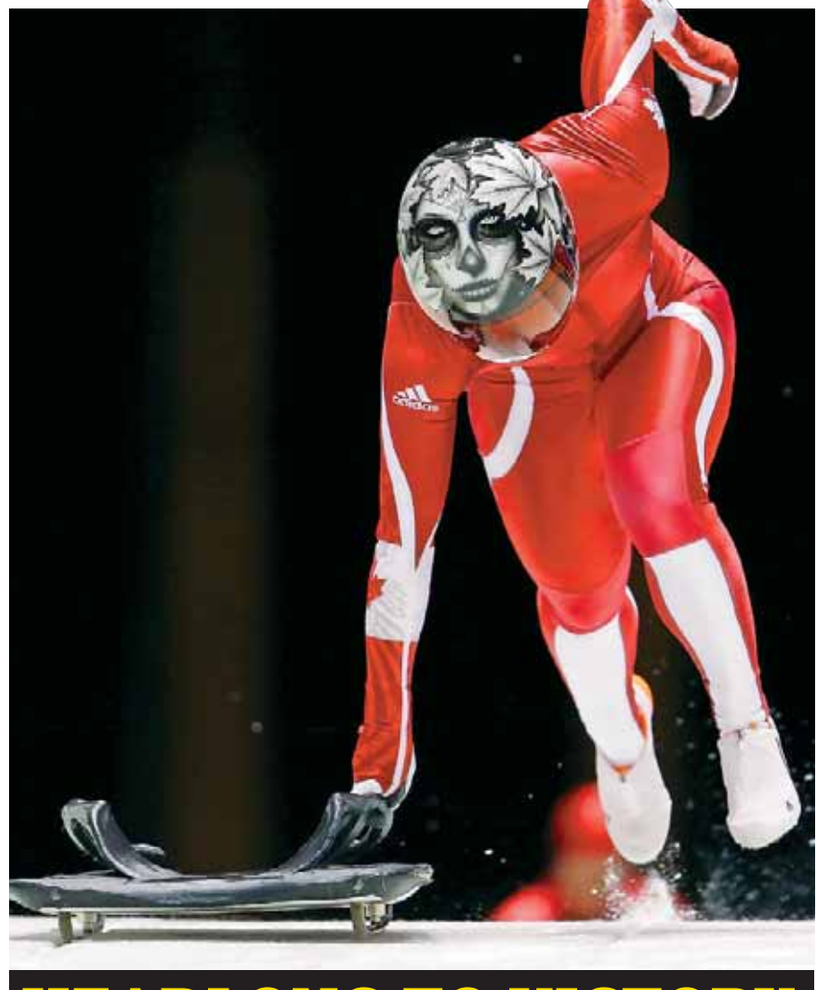
"I challenge the people who want to keep it up to tell me: if it wasn't there, would you want to put it up? The answer is no," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

By the numbers

- **5:** Minutes that repairs would add to drive time from Don Mills-Eglinton
- **15:** Minutes that removal would add to drive time from Don Mills-Eglinton
- **$870 million:** Cost to repair, operate and maintain the Gardiner over the next century
- **$470 million:** Cost to remove the expressway and operate and maintain a replacement over the next century



HEADLONG TO VICTORY

Canadian skeleton racer Sarah Reid prepares for takeoff during a practice run at the Sanki Sliding Center on Wednesday in Sochi. Reid had three podium finishes last year, including a win in Lake Placid and a silver on home soil in the Whistler World Cup Event. Reid is considered a solid medal contender, finishing 5th overall in the world cup season. For more on our Canadian Olympic team in Sochi, head to page 25. ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

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Did you know?

A brief history of the Gardiner

There was a time when the Gardiner Expressway was not a crumbling, traffic-clogged eyesore, or a symbol of political inaction and neglect.

In 1953, it was part of Frederick Gardiner's vision of bringing the city's infrastructure into the modern age. Then chair of the Metropolitan Executive Committee, Gardiner ordered the planning of a four-lane or six-lane expressway from the Humber River to Woodbine Avenue.

An expressway along the current route had actually been proposed in 1947, before being voted down by council. This time, the planning also hit bumps in the road, as many local residents opposed certain parts of the route.

Shovels finally hit the ground in 1955, with the construction done in phases. The section between the Humber and Jameson Avenue was completed first, in 1958, and the final section between the Don Valley Parkway and Leslie Street in 1966.

By the 1990s the repair needs began to pile up. The Gardiner and Lake Shore bridges over the Humber River were removed and replaced in 1998 and 1999, at a cost of $100 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Repairs on the Gardiner Expressway in October 2013.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Time ticks down for beloved bookstore

Indigo CEO Heather Reisman holds a town-hall meeting on Wednesday after a petition was circulated to keep the store in Bloor West Village open. But the store is closing because the lease is up and Shoppers Drug Mart is slated to set up shop in the space. Reisman fielded mostly friendly questions from an audience of about 300 at the Chapters Runnymede bookstore, set to close in 11 days.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Councillors split on Gardiner's fate

City hall reaction.
Issue predicted to be a hot-button topic during election campaigning

Toronto councillors predict the future of the 2.4-kilometre eastern end of the Gardiner Expressway will be a major item for debate in the lead-up to this fall's municipal elections.

The findings of a report released Wednesday present city politicians with a trade-off between saving money and longer commutes, said Coun. John Parker, a member of the public works committee.

The committee's chair, Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong, said he doesn't like the removal option because it could add 10 minutes to his commute from Don Mills and increase vehicle emissions.

"When I sit in traffic, that extra 10 minutes getting home to my family, that's a lot of time," Minnan-Wong said, adding the study didn't consider the economic costs of longer commute times.

Mayor Rob Ford made it clear he wants to keep the Gardiner's eastern leg.

"If we tear it down it will be traffic chaos for five to six years, and I don't want to see that," he said.

"Is there some crumbling? Absolutely. It's an old bridge that needs to have some infrastructure work put into it. But people are willing to patch it up. We can beautify it."

Ford agreed "it's going to be a big election issue."

Coun. Paula Fletcher, whose waterfront ward includes part of the eastern Gardiner, said the study shows that "removal is a very good option," but cautioned that members of the public still have to weigh in.

Parker said he was struck by the fact that removal wins out on several criteria, including urban planning, compatibility with surrounding neighbourhoods, construction time, and accommodation of cyclists and pedestrians.

The analysis goes to a public meeting Thursday night. A city staff report will be presented March 4 to council's public works and infrastructure committee, and to council in April.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

To the highest bidder ...

Coun. Doug Ford told reporters that he would be interested in burying the eastern section and developing on top.

- "I would look at going to the market and seeing how much we could get if we were to build on top of the Gardiner," Ford said.
- "There's a tremendous amount of real estate we could develop, get them to pay for the Gardiner underneath and put transit underneath, as well."

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HUDSON'S BAY

The 905 flips to 105.9 for news

Program director Mike Atom, left, general manager Debra McLaughlin and president Pip Bola braved the snowy chill for the official launch of York Region's own radio station, 105.9 The Region on Wednesday. The new station will provide local weather and traffic updates to the well over 1 million people who call York Region home. The Region will also broadcast international and national news along with adult contemporary music. COURTESY JENNIFER ANNE WOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Beverly Glen parents struggle to explain the unexplainable

Evangeline Adotey. Adults at the school where the six-year-old attended senior kindergarten before her mysterious death try to find the words

Three days after the death of a six-year-old girl, parents at the Scarborough school she attended are grappling with the news and struggling to explain to their own young children why there is one less smiling face in kindergarten class.

Homicide detectives continue to investigate the death of the girl, who has been identified by neighbours as Evangeline Adotey, one of four children who lived in a Scarborough townhouse with her parents. A cause of death has not yet been determined and no arrests have been made.

She was pronounced dead at the hospital Monday after being found in "obvious distress" at the Howard Johnson Inn & Suites on Metropolitan Rd., near Warden Ave. and Hwy. 401, just blocks from her family home. A man and another child were also taken to hospital.

Evangeline Adotey in an undated Facebook photo.

The morning of the day that Evangeline died, her father Jason Adotey, 35, had a court appearance on nine charges related to a minor fraud allegedly committed between September and December 2011, according to court documents obtained by the Toronto Star.

The appearance was one of several in the matter over the past year. It's unclear if Adotey attended, but the routine nature of the appearance did not require his attendance. Calls to his lawyer in that matter were not returned.

At Beverly Glen Public School, trained counseling staff discussed the death with kids. The school sent home a letter to parents Tuesday, informing them that a student at the school died, but providing little detail on the incident.

Armina Ghonakhchyan was waiting outside Wednesday to pick up her seven-year-old daughter, who is in Grade 2 at the school.

"It's so sad," she said. Ghonakhchyan said she hadn't yet spoken with her daughter about the news.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Helping Uncle Sam

Banks to report on American accounts to U.S. taxman

Canadian banks will for the first time begin sending account information on U.S. citizens in this country to the United States tax authorities next year. But Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he has reduced the reach of the American taxman in this country.

A bilateral agreement announced Wednesday comes after months of discussion between Canada and Washington over the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), which is meant to clamp down on tax evasion by American citizens living outside the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In face of criticism

Hudak stands by 'right-to-work'

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said he would stand by his plan to change Ontario's labour laws to make union dues and membership optional, while the Liberals claimed many Tories oppose the idea. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tim Hudak
THE CANADIAN PRESS

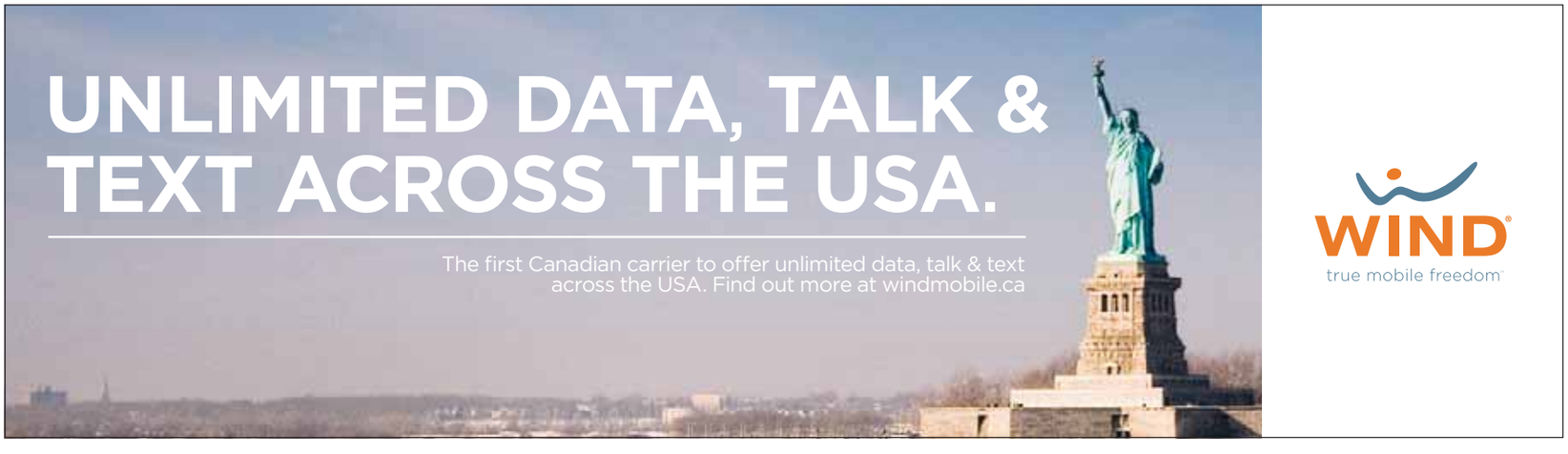
The 99% vs. the 1%

Rich *are* getting richer, while poor get poorer: Survey

A majority of Canadians think the income gap has grown in the last five years and that the country has become a "less fair" society, a new national survey finds.

The survey, conducted for Torstar News Service by York University's Institute for Social Research, found that 78 per cent of Canadians believe the income gap has grown, 70 per cent think it has made Canada less fair, 55 per cent are troubled about their financial security, while 67 per cent are worried about their children's financial future.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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Slippery and slow commute

A parade of snow plows make their way down Bloor Street on Wednesday as the city was hit with another winter wallop. Motorists and transit users slogged through a slippery and slow commute, made worse by heavy snow and strong winds. Police reported dozens of collisions and urged motorists to stay off the roads. Highways in the GTA were averaging a crash every minute at one point Wednesday morning.

HANNAH ZITNER/METRO TORONTO

Complaint alleges Toronto police racial bias

Racial profiling. Black Action Defence Committee files group human-rights complaint

The Black Action Defence Committee filed its "class" human-rights complaint alleging racial profiling and discrimination by Toronto police.

The allegations made in the complaint, filed Tuesday with the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, are nearly identical to those made by the committee in a proposed class-action lawsuit filed with Ontario's Superior Court in November 2013.

The committee decided to also pursue the group human-rights complaint "because there is pressure from the community to leave no stone unturned," said lawyer Munyonzwe Hamalengwa, who is working pro bono on the file.

The committee is seeking $100 million in damages. Also sought:

- An apology and a declaration that racial profiling and the police practice of "carding" — the stopping and documenting of citizens in encounters that typically involves no arrest or charge — is discriminatory and violates the Charter and Ontario's Human Rights Code.
- That members of Toronto's black and other minority communities be called on to deliver more training for police and policing-related staff.
- And that police be required to carry cards to hand out, which itemize what racial profiling and discrimination entails and lists a hotline that people who believe they have been profiled can call.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rawle Maynard

The largest known award by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario as a result of a racial profiling complaint is $40,000. In that case, the Toronto Police Services Board and a Toronto police officer were ordered to pay the sum to Rawle Maynard in 2012 "for injury to dignity, feelings and self-respect."

- **In 2005, the Scarborough resident was followed by police. When he pulled into his driveway and confronted police, the officer pulled his weapon,** as did other officers who arrived on scene.

Ford 'perplexed' after getting jaywalking ticket

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford says he's "perplexed" over receiving a ticket for jaywalking last Friday in a Vancouver suburb.

Ford was in B.C. to attend the funeral of a friend's mother and was crossing a road linking the Vancouver-area municipalities of Burnaby and Coquitlam when police stopped him.

Commenting for the first time since getting the ticket, Ford said Wednesday that there were 15 people with him at the time but the officer picked him out and said "you're Rob Ford, come with me."

Ford says he and another person he was with were given jaywalking tickets for $109.

He says he understands the RCMP have a job to do and admits he's broken the law "many times" by jaywalking, but says in Toronto he's seen very few officers give jaywalking tickets.

The RCMP, which is responsible for policing Coquitlam, has refused to comment on the reasons Ford received the ticket or how many tickets are issued for jaywalking.

"I'm just perplexed by it," Ford said, noting that "everybody jaywalks."

But the ticket would seem to be the least of Ford's ongoing troubles. Earlier last week an ex-boyfriend of Ford's sister filed a lawsuit claiming the mayor conspired to have him attacked in jail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"When I was like five years old, you run across the street.... When there's an ice cream store across the street and I'm a little tyke, I scoot across the street,"

Mayor Rob Ford on jaywalking

A man walks past a strip club in Vancouver making light of the jaywalking ticket Mayor Rob Ford received. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CN, union reach tentative deal to avoid strike

Keeping it rail. The federal government said it was prepared to force striking workers to go back on the job

CN Rail and the Teamsters union have reached a tentative contract agreement, averting a potential strike by 3,000 workers that could have come as early as this weekend.

Both sides said late Wednesday that details of the three-year contract won't be released until it is ratified by union members.

Teamsters spokesman Stephane Lacroix described the negotiations as a "bit chaotic," but said CN came to the union with a series of proposals late in the day.

"As a result, we're very happy to avoid a strike this weekend," Lacroix said, adding he hopes union members will ratify the agreement this time.

Lacroix noted that Labour Minister Kellie Leitch's announcement that Ottawa was preparing back-to-work legislation in the event of a strike likely helped move things along.

He said union members will soon get to see the agreement and likely vote on it in the coming weeks.

The union's strike notice came days after Teamster members, representing conductors, train employees and yard workers, rejected a tentative contract reached last fall with CN.

The federal government had said it was prepared to intervene and force CN workers back on the job should they go ahead with a walkout, which could have come as early as Saturday morning.

CN congratulated the union for averting a possible strike.

"This will ensure continued service to our customers in a very challenging environment where extreme winter conditions have hampered CN operations and affected service levels," said Jim Vena, CN's executive vice-president and chief operating officer.

"CN has offered to work closely with the union leadership to explain the terms of the agreement to union members over the next 45 days to help ensure a successful ratification of the agreement," Vena said in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winter weather causes massive pileup on 401

Rescue workers attend the scene of a multi-vehicle pileup on Highway 401 westbound near Trenton on Wednesday. Ontario provincial police said via Twitter that the accident was over a kilometre long and had closed down the highway. OPP said about 25 tractor trailers and 10 smaller vehicles were involved in the string of collisions as many roads in eastern and southern Ontario were covered in snow from the substantial snowstorm.

JUSTIN CHIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vets. Medical discharges lead to 'area of unfairness'

Some Canadian soldiers given medical discharges find they don't qualify for benefits because Veterans Affairs uses different, more stringent criteria in an "unfair" process, the military ombudsman told a Senate committee Wednesday.

Pierre Daigle, whose term ends in a few weeks, testified many ex-soldiers have to fight to prove the conditions that made them ineligible to serve are a result of their service.

Once released, Veterans Affairs demands the ill and injured be subject to a separate assessment above and beyond whatever examination has been conducted at National Defence. For veterans, it can be a bureaucratic conundrum that often leads to a denial of benefits and a lengthy appeals process.

"This is an area of unfairness which needs to be looked at," Daigle said.

Daigle said he has had heard from former members directly, even though his mandate doesn't extend to Veterans Affairs, and told senators one individual described the process "as the equivalent of being pushed off a cliff." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arturo. Polar bear unlikely to make move to Winnipeg

Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo says a polar bear living in an Argentinian zoo will probably have to stay there.

People have been protesting the treatment of Arturo, a polar bear at the Mendoza Zoo. With temperatures drastically warmer than what a polar bear is used to, and a lack of quality facilities for the bear, protesters say the bear is not doing well.

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy has been in talks with the zoo to get Arturo transferred to the Assiniboine Park Zoo, but the APC said Wednesday it's unlikely to happen.

"It does not appear that a Canadian import permit can be issued for Arturo," the APC said in a statement.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Vancouver

Beating of 'Good Samaritan' shown in court

A man dubbed a Good Samaritan for trying to fend off looters during Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot has told the trial of his alleged attackers that he suffered injuries for nearly three weeks following the attack.

In a video that was played in court, a group of people are seen grabbing Robert MacKay outside a department store in Vancouver and punching him until he is knocked to the ground. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Family drama claims the life of 11-year-old girl

An 11-year-old girl has become the fourth person to die in a family drama that police believe was triggered by a possible love triangle.

Beatrice Godin died Tuesday night. She was one of the two daughters of Martin Godin, who police say is the prime suspect in the deaths. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Examiner: Hoffman's autopsy inconclusive

A couple adds to the flowers placed outside the apartment building of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in New York Tuesday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug overdose?

Four suspects who may have supplied actor with drugs taken into police custody

Four people were taken into custody on drug charges after police investigating Philip Seymour Hoffman's death executed search warrants, two people with knowledge of the investigation said Wednesday, and the medical examiner's office said more tests are needed to determine what killed him.

There was no timetable for Hoffman's autopsy to be finished, said medical examiner office spokeswoman Julie Bolcer, who declined to discuss the pending tests. Toxicology and tissue tests are typically done in such cases.

Police have been investigating his death as a suspected drug overdose.

The Oscar-winning actor was found dead Sunday with a needle in his arm, and tests found heroin — but no traces of the potent synthetic morphine additive fentanyl, which is added to intensify the high and has been linked to 22 suspected overdose deaths in western Pennsylvania — in samples from at least 50 packets in his apartment in Manhattan's Greenwich Village, law enforcement officials have said.

The four people were taken into custody Tuesday after police executed search warrants at several New York City apartments based on a tip provided by a confidential source that the suspects may have supplied Hoffman with drugs, according to two people with knowledge of the investigation who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

The four suspects face charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

History of drug abuse

- Hoffman had been frank about struggling with substance abuse. He told CBS' 60 Minutes in 2006 that he used "anything I could get my hands on" before getting clean at age 22.
- But in interviews last year, he said he had relapsed, had developed a heroin problem and had gone to rehab for a time.

Philip Seymour Hoffman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reunion

Man recognizes son abducted 18 years ago

A man says he quickly recognized his son when he saw him for the first time since his mother abducted him as a little boy 18 years ago and fled to Mexico.

Steven Slinkard of Indiana tells the Daily Reporter his now-23-year-old son Nathan was carrying a picture of them together from before the boy's mother fled with him and two siblings to Mexico in 1995.

Authorities say Nathan Slinkard walked into the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara last month and asked to return home.

Steven Slinkard says he also wants to see his other son and daughter and hopes they know he never gave up on finding them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace talks

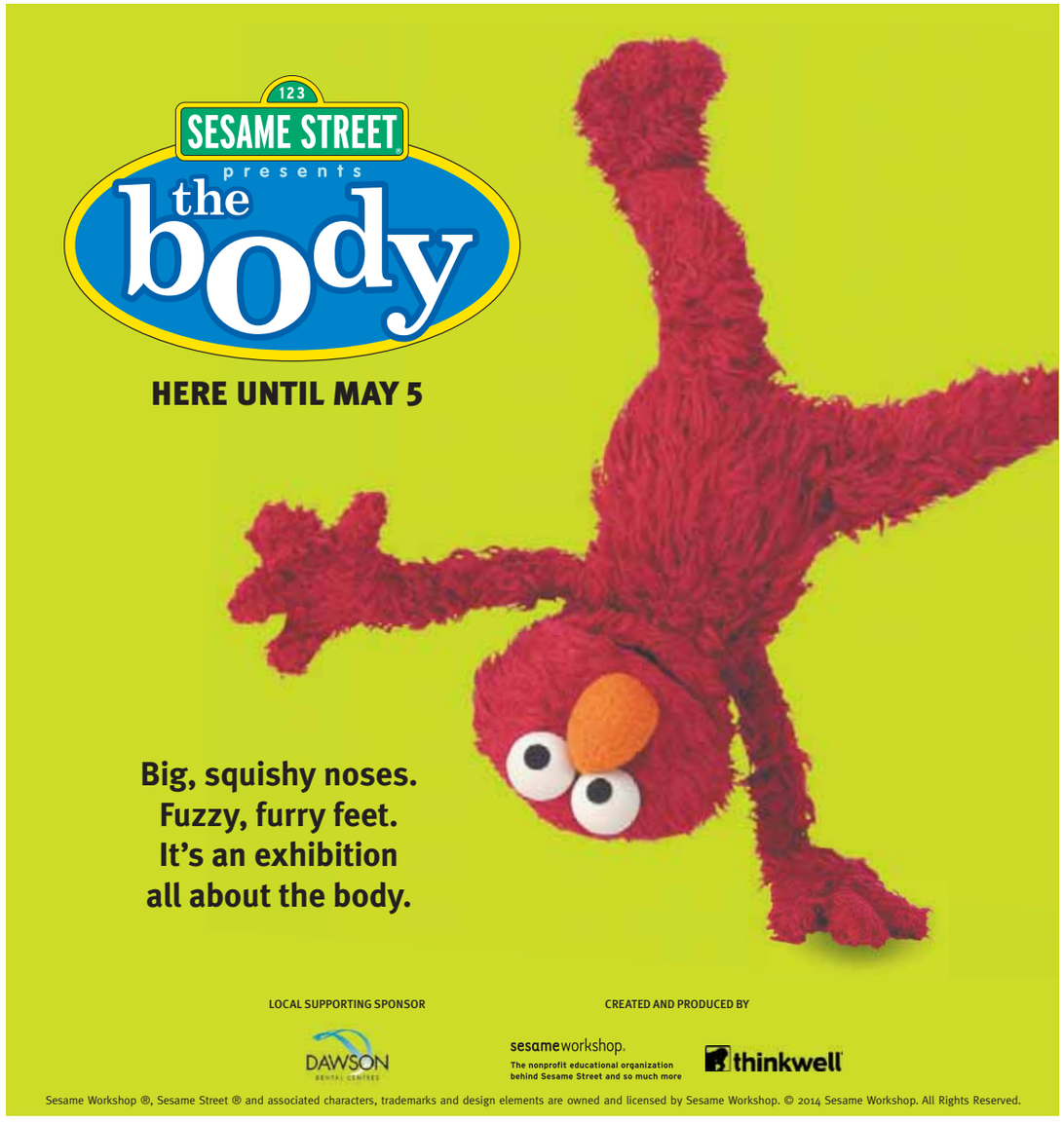
Colombia's FARC troubled by reports of cyber-spying

A high-ranking member of Colombia's largest guerrilla army said Wednesday it is concerned over a report that an elite unit of the South American nation's military allegedly spied on the electronic communications of negotiators at peace talks in Havana.

Ivan Marquez, the nom de guerre of a rebel with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, said the guerrillas believe that if the military spied on government negotiators, surely it snooped on their communications as well.

He called on President Juan Manuel Santos' government to provide an explanation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Russia

Railway fire forces evacuation

Several dozen railway cars carrying gas exploded into fireballs in Russia on Wednesday, suspending traffic on the Trans-Siberian Railway and prompting evacuations from nearby buildings, emergency officials said. No injuries were reported.

The crash occurred at a railway station in Kirov, about 800 kilometres northeast of Moscow, when 32 railcars loaded with gas derailed and caught fire.

The inferno engulfed a large area around the station, forcing the evacuation of about 700 nearby residents, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sochi security beefed up

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a wall at the Coastal Cluster Olympic Village on Wednesday in Sochi.
ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter Olympics.

Russia's law-and-order president not taking terrorist threat lightly

President Vladimir Putin pointed Wednesday to the Boston Marathon bombings as a big reason for the intense security around the Winter Olympics starting in Russia this week.

The Chechen brothers accused of the 2013 Boston attacks hailed from just a few hundred kilometres away from the Olympic sites at Sochi. This Black Sea town and neighbouring Caucasus Mountains are readying to host world leaders, thousands of athletes and many more spectators at the Feb. 7-23 games.

Twin bombings in another southern Russian city in December have heightened terrorism fears around the Sochi events.

Intelligence agencies from multiple countries will be working together around the clock at a special headquarters in Sochi, Putin said while visiting Olympic sites Wednesday.

"In the U.S., people died at a marathon, during the G8 there were terrorist acts in the London subway," he said, according to Russian news agencies.

Putin rose to power and popularity 15 years ago on law-and-order, hard-on-terrorism policies that critics say go too far and suppress human rights. He had long warned the West about the dangers posed by Chechen rebels, and urged closer security co-operation with Washington after the Boston Marathon attacks.

Putin has made security central to the Olympic project, in which he has taken an unusual personal interest.

Despite hangups and criticism and higher costs than any Olympics in history, Putin told athletes and staff Wednesday that "Russia is ready to host the games." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win one for Mother Russia

"Fans will be watching your every appearance with the greatest attention. We're all counting on you."

Russian President Vladimir Putin voices words of encouragement to his nation's Olympic athletes during a pre-Sochi pep talk on Wednesday

Backlash

Protests over anti-gay laws intensify

A U.S. Olympic sponsor and a UN panel condemned a Russian law criticized as a stifler of gay rights as protests took place around the world Wednesday.

The law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in July bans pro-gay "propaganda" that could be accessible to minors.

Detractors have pressed the International Olympic Committee and its corporate sponsors to denounce the law and call for its repeal.

One of those sponsors, McDonald's, was targeted Wednesday by protesters in London and Paris, where about 50 people gathered in front of one of the fast-food chain's restaurants in the Place de la Republique.

In London, about 150 people rallying outside Prime Minister David Cameron's office in London urged McDonald's and the IOC's other sponsors to speak out. The activists there said they plan to deliver a petition signed by more than 100,000 people to a nearby McDonald's restaurant. Protests also took place in St. Petersburg, Russia, New York, Jerusalem and Rio de Janeiro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome.

UN report urges Vatican to come clean on abuse

The Vatican "systematically" adopted policies that allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades, a UN human-rights committee said Wednesday, urging the Holy See to open its files on pedophiles and bishops who concealed their crimes.

The UN committee severely criticized the Holy See for its attitudes toward homosexuality, contraception and abortion and said it should change its own canon law to ensure children's rights and their access to health care are guaranteed.

The Vatican promptly objected and its UN ambassador accused the committee of having betrayed the international body's own objectives by allowing itself to be swayed by pro-gay ideologues.

Pope Francis greets the faithful as he arrives for his weekly general audience at the Vatican on Wednesday. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The report, which took the Vatican by surprise in its harsh tone, puts renewed pressure on Pope Francis to move decisively on the abuse front and make good on pledges to create a Vatican commission to study sex abuse.

The commission was announced in December, but few details have been released since then.

The committee issued its recommendations after subjecting the Holy See to a day-long interrogation last month on its implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the key UN treaty on child protection, which the Holy See ratified in 1990.

Critically, the committee rejected the Vatican's long-standing argument that it doesn't control bishops or their abusive priests, saying the Holy See was responsible for implementing the treaty not just in the Vatican City State but around the world "as the supreme power of the Catholic Church through individuals and institutions placed under its authority."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No need to be a pig and start hogging all the bacon ... yet

Oink, oink. The price of your favourite cut of pork is likely to only slightly rise due to virus sweeping North America

SCOTT TAYLOR
Metro in London, Ont.

The virus that's rippling its way across Ontario pig farms could hit pork lovers' pocketbooks if the spread continues.

While no one's forecasting a blockbuster spike in bacon prices any time soon, each new case of the ever-so-charmingly-named porcine epidemic diarrhea pushes the chances one step closer.

Prices have already seen a bit of a nudge thanks to the virus's spread in the U.S., which has been battling the bug since the spring. There, more than 2,600 cases of the virus have been confirmed in 23 states, according to the latest data from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians.

Aw, these little piggies might be adorable, but the not-so-adorable porcine epidemic diarrhea could push pork prices up. GETTY IMAGES FILE

"It all depends on how it plays out in Ontario, whether we can contain it to the sites we have now or if it blows up like it did in the U.S.," said London, Ont.-area hog farmer Jim Denys. "If it does, it may affect the price further."

By June, bacon in urban U.S. supermarkets had jumped to nearly $5 a pound, about 15 per cent higher than the same time in 2012, according to government data. End-of-year data shows a 20 per cent price jump per pound, although some of that can be attributed to the bacon craze that swept North America in 2013, sources have said.

Hands-off learning

A hologram of a beckoning prostitute is shown at the entrance of the "Red Light Secrets" museum in Amsterdam on Tuesday. On any given evening, thousands of tourists stroll down the narrow streets of Amsterdam's famed Red Light District, gawking at ladies in lingerie who work behind windows, making a living selling sex for money. Now a small educational museum is opening in the heart of the district that aims to show reality from the other side of the glass. Organizer Melcher de Wind says the Red Light Secrets museum is for those who want to learn more about how the area works without actually visiting a prostitute. EVERT ELZINGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Community input

Feds to tighten cell-tower rules

Ottawa says it is tightening laws governing construction and placement of new cellular antenna towers to require consultation with communities on all commercial installations, regardless of height.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

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Usage-based insurance in Canada?
What the Beep!

Select Canadian insurers have started offering usage-based car insurance on an optional basis. This option, while still new, may be a cost-effective solution for some drivers.

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HEEL EDGE OF TECH DEFENDS EBOOKS

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I'm not really on the cutting edge when it comes to technology. I've spent a lot of my life living in the past (also known as New Brunswick), so I'm more like the back part of the knife that you push on when you're slicing.

Google tells me that part is called the spine, which still gives me too much credit, society-wise. The middle part is the heel. That seems about right.

I am on the cutting heel of technology.

So when I say that I believe ebooks are far superior to regular books and will one day replace them, don't take it as a bold pronouncement of Things to Come. Take it as a sign that smarter people than me have likely been saying it for years, and now that it's occurred to me it must be more mainstream than Leno.

Until recently I was among those who felt that paper books were unquestionably superior. Ebooks weren't great when they first hit the market, which gave us traditionalists cover as we pointed out that the battery or lights or selection or cost weren't very good.

It was like we looked at the Wright brothers' rickety plane at Kitty Hawk and scoffed: "No way that thing is going to get 350 passengers from Vancouver to Hong Kong on an overnight flight. What were they thinking?"

But now that ebooks have long-life batteries, easy-to-read screens, excellent selection and good prices, people in the pro-book camp have resorted to a couple of paperweight arguments.

The first, from people who have not tried ebooks on principle, usually involves what might to go wrong — like deleting a book or running out of power. These problems are so unlikely that it's like saying a horse is preferable to a car because horses never accidentally deploy their airbags.

The second, more popular argument is that there's "just something" about books. The smell, the feel, the heft, the look. We are judging the book by its cover, and we'll caress it and smell it like it's Ryan Gosling or Scarlett Johansson, thank you very much. All well and good, except there is nothing intrinsically pleasant about the feel or smell of a book. I like those sensations too but it's only because I associate them with book reading and therefore feel positively about them. If it was all about heft we should just carry around five-pound Ps and Qs. "Don't mind these, they're fun to lift." (Besides, my e-reader has a cover that smells just fine.)

Paper books aren't going anywhere, any more than globes and vinyl records are, and all reading is good. But I think books will become curios and hobby pieces while ebooks will dominate the mainstream completely.

I've thought of starting a business that sells blank paper books (one per household) so families will still have something to grope and sniff as they read, but I'm sure someone else has already thought of it. So said the heel.

I suppose I could take a page out of their book but, well, you know.

ZOOM

Don't have a cow, man — have two

ALL PHOTOS 2014 SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Cattle race carnage gets a photo finish

Yongsheng Zheng's photograph gives us a glimpse into Indonesia's adrenaline-fuelled festival of Pacu Jawi (cow racing).

The annual event sees brave jockeys grab the tails of a pair of cows and skate across muddy rice fields barefoot while balancing on a wooden plank.

The Minangkabau people of West Sumatra have been marking the event for 400 years to celebrate the yearly end of the rice harvest season.

Zheng's photo made the World Photography Organisation's shortlist of the 2014 Sony World Photography Awards.

Pictured to the right are a few more of the nominees.

METRO

Sophie Gamand's Wet Dog is a series of portraits of dogs in mid-bath, photographed half a second before they shake their fur.

Louise Porter submitted this photograph of young men from the Kara tribe in Ethiopia.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Did you know that there are people in Sochi aside from reporters cracking wise about a half-finished insta-city? There are athletes there too, and they seem much happier to be there. Follow these Canadians on Instagram to see for yourself.

CONTRIBUTED

Charles Hamelin:

A three-time medallist short-track speedskater who also happens to excel at the Maniacal Selfie In A Crowd event. He even got close enough to snap a photo of Vladimir Putin joining a Japanese athlete for a dining hall selfie. The caption calls him Vladimir Poutine. A genuine mistake or a potentially dangerous gag? Neither? Charles Hamelin: Enigma. (/charleshamelin)

Travis Gerrits:

A freestyle skier boasting a silver medal from the 2013 FIS World Championships, Gerrits represents Canada in one of the Games' most photogenic sports. And if soaring skiers frozen in time doesn't sound like your kind of thing, he also has a very handsome dog. (/travisgerrits)

Canadian Olympic Team:

Since things have yet to officially kick off, the official feed is a patriotic mix of athletes looking chuffed in shiny new Olympic merchandise or athletes looking chuffed after success in Vancouver. But once the festivities are on, it'll be hard to beat the access. (/cdnolympicteam)

Twitter

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A petition has been started to remove a lifelike sculpture of a man in his underwear from a woman's college campus in the U.S. Should Sleepwalker stay or go?

@PorcelainTear I can understand why that such statue would cause a stir. It looks very real & somewhat disturbing for that reason

Comments

RE: How Far Would You Go For Free Breast Implants? Published online Feb. 5, 2014

If you have left over money, please donate to sick and starving kids around the world, not for shallow people who only care for their look.

Kim, posted to metronews.ca

"I would feel more confident" — for a month or two, that is, until you find something else about your body that makes you insecure.

Al_Gee, posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: torontoletters@metronews.ca

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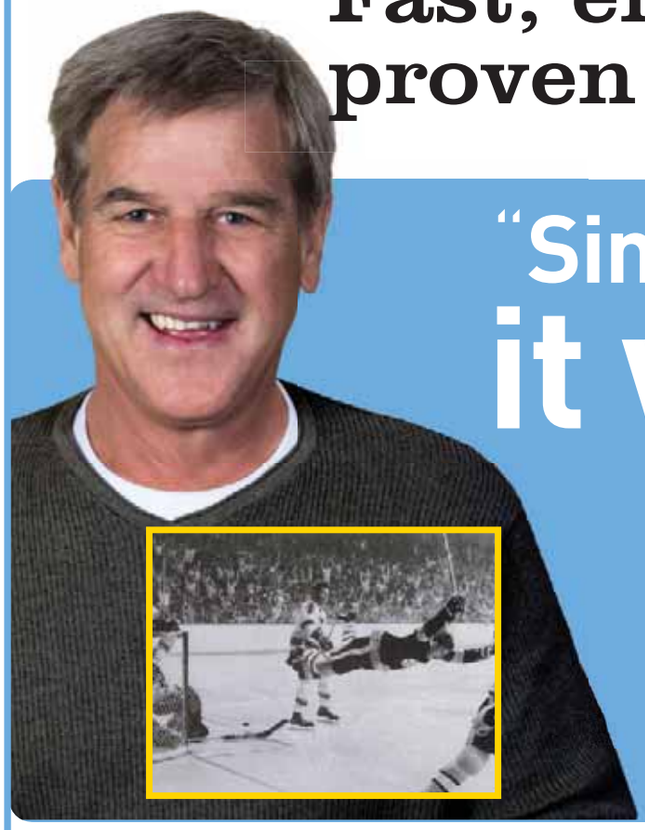

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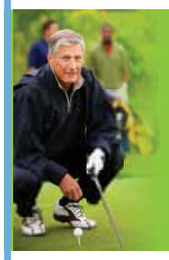

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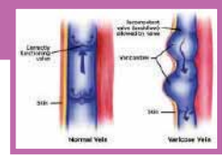

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SCENE 2

A restoration celebration

See ya celluloid!
The Great Digital Film Festival celebrates an evolution in entertainment by showcasing recently reformed classics

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Snatch is screening tonight for the Digital Film Festival. CONTRIBUTED

Last month, Paramount Pictures seemingly put an end to the decade and a half-long film vs. digital debate. The studio announced it would stop distributing physical prints of its movies

"Many studios are likely to follow," says Jesse Wente, head of film programmes at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

"It's probably an inevitability."

The decision is one of economics. "Striking a print," or making a copy of a movie on celluloid film, costs more than $1,500 per copy. High quality digital files costs a tenth of that.

Consequently, studios, with an eye to the home market, are digging through their vaults and digitally restoring their back catalogues, and Cineplex Entertainment is taking full advantage.

The Great Digital Film Festival, which ends tonight, has gathered some of the latest restorations and puts them up on the big screen.

The festival's name is a bit of misnomer. Cineplex's theatres are already 100 per cent digital. "We think it's a great format for our guests," says Mike Langdon, director of communications.

But the vast majority of cinema history is written on film says Wente, and things can be lost in the conversion process. "To view [those films] on celluloid is very important."

He says the Lightbox has no plans to ditch its physical film projectors.

Archivists also worry about the durability of digital files.

"We've been running 35mm prints through projectors for over 100 years," says Wente. We know how to store and preserve film. Not so with digital files.

"We're still in the infancy of understanding things like degradation of a digital file."

Most filmmakers now shoot their movies on digital equipment, so it makes sense to release those movies as digital prints. And even Wente applauds the recent restorations like Lawrence of Arabia.

"The film never looked that good."

THE GREAT DIGITAL FILM FESTIVAL ENDS TODAY. SCREENINGS ARE AT THE SCOTIABANK THEATRE, 259 RICHMOND ST W AND CINEPLEX CINEMAS MISSISSAUGA, 309 RATHBURN RD W. SEE CINEPLEX.COM/DIGITALFILMFEST FOR SHOWTIMES.

Break out the popcorn

Screening tonight...

• Akira — The film that established Japanese anime as a legitimate form in the eyes of North Americans.

• Ghost in the Shell — The Wachowskis lifted a lot of ideas from this cyber-punk anime masterpiece for their Matrix trilogy.

• Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels — A card shark robs a small-time gang to pay of off his debts in this crime-caper.

• Snatch — criminal underworlds collide in Guy Ritchie's second crime-comedy.

• Monty Python & the Holy Grail — John Cleese, Eric Idle et al on a search of the fabled Holy Grail. Hilarity ensues.

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Clooney on the importance of culture

The Monuments Men.
Actor-turned-director talks about his new war story and why art matters

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The Monuments Men opens on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

You may think all the Second World War stories that could be committed to film have been covered, but George Clooney's got a new one for you. His latest as a director, The Monuments Men, is based on the real exploits of a team of art experts tasked with recovering priceless works the Nazis were hoarding in the waning days of the war.

"We wanted to make an entertaining film, and we liked the story. We were not all that familiar with this actual story, which is rare for a World War II story, and we wanted it to be accessible," Clooney says.

"We wanted to talk about a very serious subject that's ongoing and we wanted to make it entertaining. That was the goal. A movie about saving art doesn't really sound all that fun, so you have to remind people that what we're talking about isn't just these paintings on a wall. It's about culture, the fabric of our culture. You can kill them, you can murder their families, but if you take away their culture then that's when society breaks down."

The conviction with which he speaks comes from a very personal place and from personal experiences that helped motivate him to undertake the film in the first place.

"I spent a lot of time going through villages in the Sudan and Darfur where it wasn't enough that you killed them and you killed their children and you did all this stuff. They had to destroy the things that they'd created from generations before," Clooney remembers.

"They had to destroy what made the village theirs, and that was as important as the raping and the murdering of these families. We started to understand how, when we didn't protect the art during the beginning of the war in Iraq — we didn't protect those museums and now a lot of those things are lost, those artifacts — how that can actually affect the community in a very deep way. What are you fighting for, if it's not your culture, your life?"

His fifth film as a director, The Monuments Men marks Clooney's first outing behind the camera since 2011's The Ides of March, and while those jobs take longer to get out, he's much happier in the director's chair, he's found.

"I prefer directing to doing other things. Directing and writing, I think, they seem to be infinitely more creative," he says.

"I like it more than acting now. I don't know whether it's improving or not, but it's definitely evolving in different directions. All you're trying to do is learn from people that you've worked with. I've worked with the Coen Brothers, with Soderbergh, Alexander Payne — I've worked with really great directors. You just try to watch what they're doing and then steal it. That's the theory. You go, 'Oh, I like that. I'm going to do it that way.'"

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Clay Aiken. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken puts career on hold to run for Congress

Former American Idol runner-up Clay Aiken is running for Congress in North Carolina.

Aiken said Wednesday he'll seek the Democratic nomination for the seat currently held by Rep. Renee Ellmers.

The 35-year-old Aiken has been a special education teacher in Wake County. He says he decided to put his entertainment career on hold and seek to represent the state's 2nd Congressional District.

He says he considers Washington to be dysfunctional and will focus on jobs and the economy, as well as the importance of education.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cher

Cher skips wedding over feud with son Elijah

Cher's ongoing feud with her son, Elijah Blue, and his new wife, Angie King, shows no sign of abating and recently resulted in Cher missing their wedding and excluding them from family holiday activities, Blue tells the National Enquirer.

"I've always been the black sheep of my family. We have lots of ups and downs, and now isn't the best time," says Blue, who married King in early December. "It's like a Mexican standoff, but we have a history."

The latest spat apparently results from an October falling out between Cher and her new daughter-in-law that prompted the Burlesque star to kick the pair out of her Malibu home, where they'd been staying. "You've got two strong women, two big bulls in the pen," Blue says. "I think there's a respect and I think they butt heads."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Selena sneaks off to rehab — for 'emotional issues'

Selena Gomez reportedly snuck away for a two-week stay at an Arizona rehab facility, though her rep insists to Radar Online it was for emotional issues.

"Selena voluntarily spent time at (Dawn at the) Meadows, but not for substance abuse," her rep says, though other sources insist the former Disney star has been "partying very hard" in the months leading up to her secret stay. "With fame came a partying lifestyle," says a source, while another adds that ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber probably wasn't helping matters. "Selena came to understand just what a bad influence Justin had been on her life," the second source says. "I don't know whether Justin pushed her to drug use, but amongst their close-knit group of friends, smoking was commonplace. Justin and Selena would smoke marijuana together regularly." METRO WORLD NEWS

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Beckham gets a kick out of the fashion business

Let's talk about Becks. Whether you know him for his athletic skill or naked torso doesn't really matter at this point. David Beckham's empire is growing and no one is going to bring him (or his boxer briefs) down

Everybody knows who David Beckham is, either from his career as a football star or as the fashion icon and trendsetter he has become.

Metro Sweden's fashion editor Martin Hansson met David Beckham in New York to talk about the new collaboration with the Swedish fashion giant that premiered during the Super bowl weekend.

What has it been like to go from football player to a fashion icon?

I have always been very interested in clothes and style.

One day I love wearing a really tailored suit and the next day I like wearing what I'm wearing today: a pair of casual jeans and a sweater.

The opportunity to, in collaboration with H & M, produce an underwear collection that reflects my personal style feels natural and in tune with the times.

I dare you to deny that this man makes undies look good.
METRO WORLD NEWS

Your new collection, David Beckham for H & M, has been increased and is now aimed at younger boys as well. What message would you like to send to them?

Family first

Victoria loves the pictures and just thinks it's fun. But my sons like the exposure most of all and think it's great to see their daddy everywhere.
David Beckham on H&M campaign

I would like to tell them to go for their passion, work hard and stay focussed. I have always given 100 per cent in everything I do, both in football and in fashion. If you work hard enough and have fun at the same time there is a chance that you'll reach your dreams.

How does your wife Victoria feel about seeing you half naked on billboards and on TV all over the world?

(Laughs) Victoria loves the pictures and just thinks it's fun. But my sons like the exposure most of all and think it's great to see their daddy everywhere. I often wear the clothes from the new collection at home so they recognize it.

If you could look into your future, what do you hope to see?

I want to continue working with all that I'm doing today but also with new projects. Because I've played football the past 22 years it is refreshing to do something completely different now.

Get to know David

THE FACTS

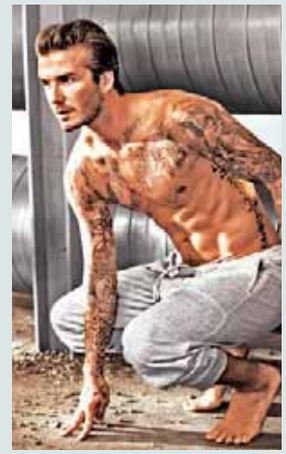
Name: David Beckham

Age: 38

In the news: Has designed a new collection for H & M and is seen in a large campaign that premiered at the Super Bowl this weekend.

Lives: In Notting Hill, London

Family: Married to Victoria Beckham, four children.



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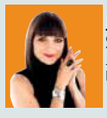

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
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TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

With my gorgeous makeup artist Kris Wares @Chanel who always makes me feel sooooo good! Prepping for @Cafawards #FUN

Moved to be celebrated in my own backyard! Thanks to my Canadian fashion family–for all your passion. @Cafawards

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Heather

Age: 29

Occupation: Freelance writer

What she's wearing: H&M scarf, Top Shop jacket, Gap shirt, BDG pants, LK Berlin bag and Top Shop shoes.

Her inspiration: The weather!

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Who thought spring could bring the blues?

I azure you. The fashionable gent will be taking a page from the sky and sea this spring as blue slips into our wardrobe big time

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON
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dobbernationloves.com

Roots V-neck sweater in Royal Blue $68, roots.com

Harry Rosen is arguably Canada's most trusted source in haute couture fashion for gents, and 2014 marks the company's 60th anniversary. They've had a rich history of dressing the country's perfectly put-together dandies.

I had an opportunity to sit down with Harry Rosen's fashion communications expert Paul Smith who offered a sneak peak trend report for the upcoming season.

"It's a bit of a more relaxed approach to dressing but still with a level of sophistication that is approachable.

"Spring brings a lot of opportunity in terms of being more exploratory, especially through colour, and this year, blue and its variations will be the gentlemen's trend."

Paul continued to pursue his passion for blue through a discussion focused on what's likely to pop.

In the denim department, expect to find sun-bleached relaxed looks with a bit of distress. When shopping dress shirts, patterns such as gingham, plaid and paisley will be in vogue. Paul notes that these classic designs will be more subtle than years passed but still offer a powerful statement.

So while you'll likely see shop shelves decked out in indigo, cobalt, ultramarine and everything-in-between, what do we pair with our new favourite blue statement pieces? Paul encourages gents to pair blue panache with tan, stone and gray compliments, helping you stand out in the crowd.

Our conversation concluded on the topic of shoes.

Swims lace loafer in Navy Blue $160, harryrosen.com

No shock that blue loafers will be the hottest commodity. The driving shoe or slip-on loafer will be celebrated through variability in texture and material. Iconic leather offerings from Todd's and Sperry's will be joined by Swims of Norway, which showcase comfortable and stylish footwear made of durable rubber and nylon.

Spice up your locks!

Anchorman 2 star James Marsden gets his hair done during Super Bowl week in New York. Marsden, who teamed up with Old Spice to launch its new hair care and styling product lineup, told Metro, "I was never one to spend too much time getting ready. It's kind of still the case. But you can be smarter about it now. You don't have to wash your hair with bar soap. You can use men's products. It's OK!"

PHOTO: MARK VON HOLDEN/INVISION FOR OLD SPICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trends Report

You've always loved denim, and it's making a fashionable resurgence this spring, appearing on the top fashion runways from New York to Milan. Go online to Trends Report and see the latest denim creations for men and women. Can you think outside the blue jean box?

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

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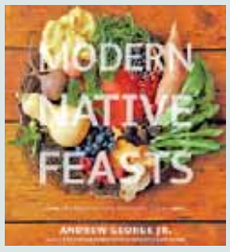
Rich Oysters Rockefeller goes First Nations

This recipe makes 12 oysters (two to six servings, depending on how large they are and much your guests like oysters). TRACEY KUSIEWICZ OF FOODIE PHOTOGRAPHY (FOODIEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

Cookbook of the Week

Native eats for the 21st century



Full of healthy North American fare, Modern Native Feasts by Andrew George Jr. updates tradition for the 21st century. Native American cuisine comes of age in this collection that reinterprets and updates traditional Native recipes with modern, healthy twists. Andrew George Jr. was head chef for aboriginal foods at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. METRO

1. Preheat broiler to high.

2. In frying pan, melt butter and sauté celery, onions, garlic, parsley, greens, and dash of Pernod. Stir constantly for about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

3. In a blender, combine greens mixture with bread and process for about 30 seconds. Using an oyster knife, twist open shells and remove oysters. In a large bowl, toss oysters with 1 tbsp Pernod. Drain oysters and reserve liquid. Remove any shell fragments. Discard top shells, clean and dry bottom shells.

4. Line a baking tray with rock salt and place oyster shells on top. Place 1 oyster into each shell and spoon reserved liquid onto each. Spoon crumb mixture on top, completely covering each oyster. Broil for 1–2 minutes, until topping bubbles. Arrange oysters on a serving dish and garnish with sprigs of parsley and lemon wedges. Season oysters to taste with salt and/or Tabasco sauce.

RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM MODERN NATIVE FEASTS: HEALTHY, INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE CUISINE BY ANDREW GEORGE JR. (PUBLISHED BY ARSENAL PULP PRESS, 2013).

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 celery stalk, finely sliced
- 2 green onions, finely sliced
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced
- 1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- 1 cup (250 ml) finely chopped stinging nettles, dandelion greens, or sorrel leaves
- dash Pernod, or other anise-flavoured liqueur
- 2 slices fresh white bread, crusts removed, torn into pieces
- 12 fresh oysters in shell
- 1 tbsp Pernod
- rock salt, for serving
- 12 lemon wedges, to garnish
- 12 parsley sprigs, to garnish
- salt, to taste
- Tabasco sauce, to taste

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Laneway reimagined in a promising condo year

Signs of spring.
Geomancer forecasts strong condo market, kitchen brand launches and a rare laneway project begins

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

A rendering of the Lanehouse development, one of the first residential laneway projects in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

As the spring season approaches, Toronto's condo market begins to heat up again with a whole host of recently-announced developments. There's a lot going on in the city, what with the recent Interior Design Show, the National Home Show in March and many newsworthy condo events this time of year.

In recognition of the Chinese New Year, Minto30Roe hosted a celebration last week for the evolving Yonge and Eglinton condo community. Amid red banners and lanterns, attendees sampled dim sum and feasted on a whole roasted pig, catered by Michael Tong of Sublime catering.

Welcoming the year of the horse, Feng Shui master Paul Ng shared his predictions for the condo market in 2014. Ng told Metro that Toronto is doing very well financially.

"The condo market will do well because the money centre of Toronto this year is downtown. Surprisingly out of nowhere, it will continue to do well." Ng pays no attention to what analysts say, using his own calculations to predict the future. "Never wrong once in the past 20 years," he claims.

Creative curator Dror Benshetrit was on hand at the recent 2014 Interior Design Show to unveil AyA Kitchens and Baths' radical new high-end kitchen brand, AVANI. Attendees got a first-hand look at the custom-made collection, featuring strictly modern clean lines, warm textures and fine hidden details.

As part of this collaboration, Benshetrit, founder of New York-based Dror, debuted ARC, a system he developed for AVANI. Made of Canadian custom-made cabinetry, ARC features lacquered doors and white Corian countertops, juxtaposed against hand-rubbed, brown-stained white oak cabinetry.

And in a new condo trend that takes its cue from European urban designs, the burgeoning Bloordale neighbourhood will soon be home to Lanehouse, one of the first residential laneway projects in Toronto.

Curated Properties brought together the design-heavy team of AUDAXarchitecture and Nivek Remas to re-imagine the building from its industrial past, formerly a yarn factory, with the goal of preserving the building's charm and character.

Laneway developments are rare and this project of 13 loft-houses and three flats at 50 Bartlett Ave. aims to diverge from the typical design of urban lofts. "With Lanehouse, we're trying to convey what we anticipate to be the future of Toronto's development scene: something more conscious and eclectic," says Adam Ochshorn, principal with Curated Properties.

Year of the Horse prediction

"The condo market will do well because the money centre of Toronto this year is downtown."

Toronto philosopher and geomancer Paul Ng on his predictions for 2014.

Inside Residenze Palazzo—Treviso III. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Residenze Palazzo – Treviso III
- **Builder.** Lanterra Developments
- **Location.** Dufferin and Lawrence
- **Building.** 15 storeys with 390 units
- **Sizes.** From 469 to 936 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $241,900 to $485,900
- **Suites.** One-bedroom, one-bedroom plus den, two-bedroom, two-bedroom plus den, three-bedroom, three-bedroom plus den
- **Web.** trevisocondos.com

The project overview

Inspired by the grand piazzas of Italy, Residenze Palazzo is a new mid-rise development by Lanterra. The third and final phase of the successful Treviso complex, it's comprised of nearly 10 acres with 1,320,000 square feet of residential and commercial space.

Building amenities

The building will feature a rooftop outdoor pool and hot tub with lounge area and sun deck, a fitness room with saunas, a combination party room-dining room-meeting room, a pet spa, a barbecue area and games room as well as a theatre, bar and boardroom.

Location & transit

Treviso is situated on the edge of an established neighbourhood, located a block from the Lawrence West TTC subway station. Commuters are close to Highway 401 and the Allen Expressway. You can be in the downtown core within 45 minutes.

In the neighbourhood

This bustling neighbourhood offers a mixture of retail, restaurants and services. There's lots of shopping at the nearby Lawrence Square and Yorkdale shopping centres, and the building is located near Caledonia Park.

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New homes market

GTA land costs restrict affordable condo growth

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

With 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs coming to the GTA every year, our industry is tasked with building quality, complete communities that these people can afford to purchase every year.

But with constrained land supply, an outdated approvals process and rising government fees and charges, it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so.

The building and development industry is one of the biggest economic engines in the region, creating more than 200,000 jobs each year. At the end of 2013, sales of new homes and condominiums in the GTA totalled just 28,406, the second-lowest in the last 10 years.

Land supply has been an issue in the GTA for several years, with high-rise land prices more than doubling in the past decade. This diminishes the amount of new products our members can introduce into the market, and with less inventory come higher prices.

According to RealNet Canada Inc., the price index for a new condo suite in the GTA is $436,564. That puts home ownership out of reach for many prospective purchasers, especially first-time buyers and new Canadians who are already struggling to save up for a down payment.

According to the Altus Group, government fees and charges make up a considerable portion of the cost of a new home and are paid by new home purchasers. For a new high-rise condo, these charges can add up to more than $64,000, just below 20 per cent of the total cost.

Many of these charges are unnecessary and a result of outdated zoning bylaws across multiple municipalities. Municipalities must ensure that local official plans and zoning by-laws are up to date to help our industry implement the intensification policies set out by Places to Grow and save new-home purchasers money.

This was one of the many solution-based recommendations BILD and OHBA put forward to the Ontario government as part of the recently completed provincial consultations of the land-use planning and appeals system as well as the Development Charges Act.

You can read all the recommendations by visiting our official blog at bildblogs.ca and typing "submissions to the provincial government" in the search box.

Despite these challenges, the new homes market in the GTA remains optimistic as stabilized pricing, low interest rates and strong demographics have contributed to five straight months of positive year-over-year sales. If you're in the market for a new condo, now is a great time to buy.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Brampton

New Release: Winter sales event at Valleylands townhomes by the Credit River. Decor upgrades and incentives. Visit the sales centre at 8676 Chinguacousy Rd. in Brampton. **CALL 905-457-0445 OR VISIT FIELDGATEHOMES.COM**

2. Etobicoke

Open House: The Watermark condos. Two suites available in a seven-storey boutique community at 3563 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Feb. 8 and 9 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **CALL 905-286-5888 FOR MORE INFO.**

3. Markham

Now Open: Markham's exclusive Signature Condominium Collection. Head over to the presentation centre at 142 Enterprise Blvd. in Markham. **CALL 905-948-9900 OR VISIT SIGNATURECONDOMINIUMS.COM FOR MORE INFO.**

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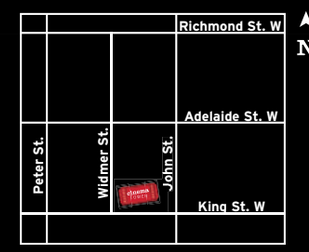

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Legal Matters

Matters of interest

I am purchasing a new condo that is finally ready for possession. I received a Statement of Adjustment from my lawyer and it looks like I am not receiving any interest on my deposits. The agent stated when I put the money down that the Condominium Act prescribed that there is interest payable on any deposits. I have almost $60,000 in money I paid in installments. What is the answer to this question?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Section 82 of the Condominium Act sets out the necessity for a builder to provide interest on deposits from the date they were paid to the date of possession. This credit decreases the amount of money that needs to be paid to the builder on interim possession. However, there is a catch to this credit.

The interest rate that is required to be paid under the Condominium Act regulations is the Bank of Canada overnight prime rate, minus 2 per cent. Unfortunately the overnight prime rate dipped from 2.25 per cent on Dec. 9, 2008 to 1.5 per cent and has stayed below 2 per cent ever since. So, although a builder is required to pay you interest rate on your deposit, that rate is actually in a negative position. So, for many new condo purchasers, their money has not made any interest in the last five-plus years.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca

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You're decor-able, Valentine

Designer touches can add romantic ambience to your home. Here are a few accessories that will appeal to all the senses.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Once this exotic candle is burned, the container can double as a rose vase. Grapefruit-guava candle in vase, $16, fruits-passion.ca.

Go to bed or wake up with a flirty message by simply flipping a pillow. Good Morning & Good Night Gorgeous feather insert pillow, $35, chapters.indigo.ca.

Show who's the animal in bed with this Animal-Print Satin sheet, from $40, zarahome.com.

Probably the most erotic way to cook your dinner — only two forks needed. Cast-iron fondue set, $56, crateandbarrel.com.

Forget making love on a bearskin rug. Grand Luxe Faux Fur Double Bean Bag in Mink, $295 US, restorationhardware.com.

DIY

Vanquish the darkest days of winter with bright lighting

The dark days of winter can be hard to bear, but don't wait for the summer sun to shed some light inside your home. Effective lighting is often overlooked during renovations, but it can turn a boring room into a dynamic, year-round oasis.

Since electrical work is extremely dangerous and regulated provincially, it's always recommended to hire a certified electrician for installation, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun dreaming up your best-lit space.

The first step to improve a room's lighting is to define its purpose. Consider what each room is used for before deciding on what kind of lighting to install.

To make a room more visually interesting, incorporate lighting at different heights. In the kitchen, recessed lights can be complemented with lights under the cabinets and pendant lights above an island.

Draw attention to artwork, bookshelves or a unique decorative object by strategically placing lights to highlight these pieces. Track lighting is a practical solution. Installing dimmers can also help make a room's lighting options more flexible.

While lighting placement is important, the design of the fixtures is equally significant. Pay careful attention to proportions.

Rescue My Renovation

• For more bright renovation ideas, tune in to Rescue My Renovation, Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on DIY Network Canada.

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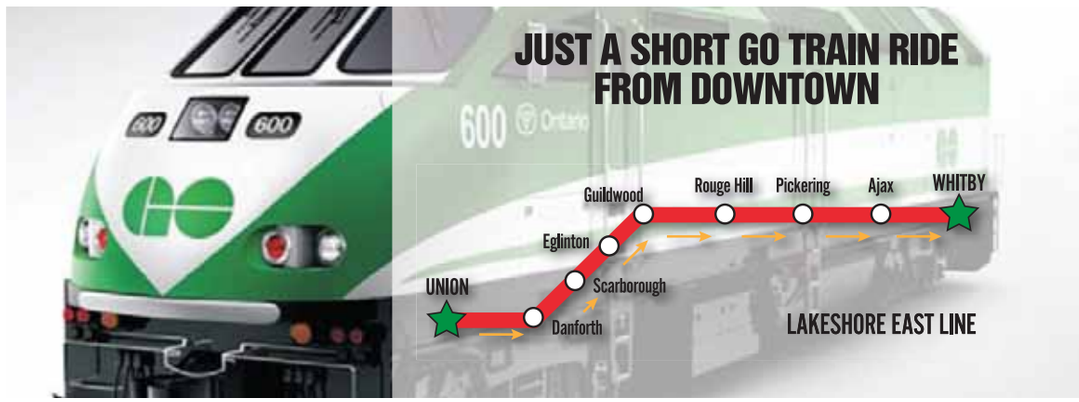

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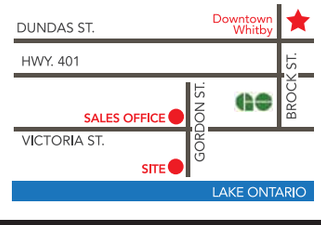

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SPORTS 4

Leafs put in time at rumour mill

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

The idea of a potential trade either in or out of Toronto always resonates more loudly than it would in many other NHL markets because of the number of media outlets amplifying it. We saw another example of it this week when injured Maple Leafs centre David Bolland's name was mentioned as potentially being on the trade block. But all it takes is the memory of a goldfish to recognize how often trades of key players really come to pass, and the ultimate purpose these rumours serve.

Remember the Leafs' most recent off-season? Remember Nazem Kadri's contract saga? If the answer to both those questions is yes, you'll also remember he was rumoured to be headed out of town. You'll probably also recall defenceman Cody Franson, who held out even longer last summer to try to secure the best deal he could and was touted as a goner before he finally agreed to a one-year pact. You don't need an investigative news unit to realize these rumours are often tactical manoeuvres designed to bypass player agents and put a chill down the spine of NHLers who want to remain in their current environment.

Such a scenario very well could be the case with Bolland, the Toronto native nearing a return from a lacerated ankle tendon that's sidelined him since November. Before he was hurt, Leafs management couldn't say enough good things about what he had brought to the team, that his veteran calm and on-ice determination was exactly what they wanted from him when he was acquired in June.

Now we're supposed to believe GM Dave Nonis is prepared to dispose of him with extreme prejudice? C'mon. There's a middle ground here and it's likely Nonis and Bolland's agent will arrive there eventually.

That's not to say there won't be challenges bringing Bolland back. The Leafs have $50.2 million in cap space committed to 13 players next season and a raise for Bolland on the $3.375 million he'll earn this year will make filling out the rest of the roster even tougher. But it can be done if Toronto's seven unrestricted free agents this summer, including Nikolai Kulemin, Jay McClement and Mason Raymond, are replaced with younger (read: cheaper) players.

Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe Bolland will price himself out of the Leafs' plans. But either way, Toronto fans don't need to break into heart palpitations just yet. This is just part of the process.

David Bolland's name being involved in trade rumours could very well be a ploy to keep him in Toronto. GETTY IMAGES FILE

'You can't force healing': Stamkos staying home

Steven Stamkos has been out since he broke his leg Nov. 11. He underwent surgery to have a titanium rod inserted into his right tibia. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steven Stamkos will not play for Team Canada at the Sochi Olympics after tests revealed Wednesday that his broken right leg is not completely healed.

Tampa Bay Lightning doctors said they couldn't clear him to play after examining his most recent CT scan and will re-evaluate his condition again in two to three weeks.

It's a big blow for the 23-year-old, who had been optimistic earlier this week that he might be able to play by as soon as Saturday.

"Today is obviously very disappointing for me," Stamkos said in a release. "I honestly believe that we did everything possible in order to have my injured leg ready in time for the Olympics, but I realize you can't force healing. I know, in the best interest of my long-term health, I cannot represent Canada in Sochi, as much as I would like to."

Lightning general manager and Team Canada exectuvSteve Yzerman, who is also Team Canada's executive director, said Stamkos "should not be participating in game action at any time in the near future."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yzerman's next decision

A replacement for Stamkos has not been announced, though Claude Giroux, Lightning teammate Marty St. Louis and James Neal figured to be the leading candidates.

Greater in Year 8?

Bobsled. She's dominated the circuit since winning gold in 2010, and Calgarian says she might have another gear for Sochi

Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse practise a run at the Sanki Sliding Centre on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia.
ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

Kaillie Humphries won Olympic bobsled gold four years ago and has finished first at the last two world championships.

In what should give her rivals cause for concern in Sochi, she is just now hitting her peak.

"They say it takes eight to 10 years to build a really good bobsleigh pilot," Humphries said. "I'm at year eight right now."

The timing seems to be lining up perfectly for the 28-year-old. She has won three World Cup titles this season and is in her usual perch on top of the overall standings.

She reunited with brakewoman Heather Moyse of Summerside, P.E.I., and they opened the campaign with an impressive win in Calgary.

Triumphant underdogs four years ago in Vancouver, now they're the team to beat.

"She's got great expectations," Canadian coach Tom De La Hunty said of Humphries. "She's won the last two world championships. So at the top level, she knows how to deal with the pressure and the pressure is going to be great this time, I'll tell you."

Humphries has emerged as one of the faces of the Canadian team in the lead-up to Sochi. It's a position she seems to enjoy.

The Canadian bobsled team attended a half-hour introductory news conference Wednesday at the Gorki Media Centre in Sochi. Humphries stayed for an extra 20 minutes, holding court with reporters in her friendly and engaging manner. The spotlight shines brightest every four years and Humphries is ready.

"You can see that she's a larger than life character," De La Hunty said. "She deals with the press effortlessly, she loves it in fact. She thrives on pressure."

The Americans are quite strong this season and should give Humphries all she can handle. The Canadian pilot is confident knowing that she is a better athlete now than she was four years ago.

"Mentally I'm stronger," she said. "Physically I feel like I'm in a great position right now. Overall it takes a whole package. It's about balance, it's not just one aspect. I'm definitely a lot more well-rounded. I still get tested, I still have my moments when I fail those tests.

"I still am learning a lot in the position that I'm in."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zen in a bullet

"You have to be able to feel, you have to be able to see. So on the track walk I'm able to see things slowed down. I'm able to look at things exactly as they are."

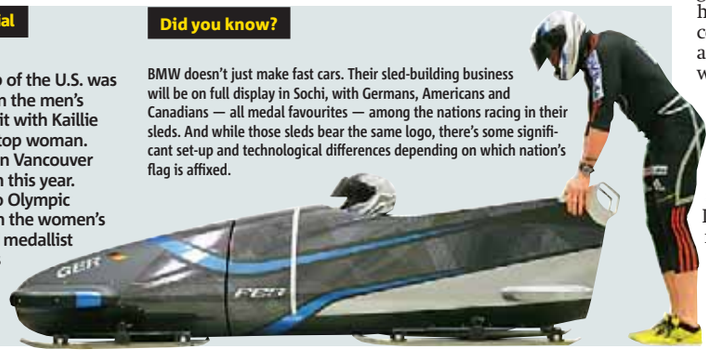
Kaillie Humphries, on racing down a bobsled run at 130 km/h.

Repeat potential

Steven Holcomb of the U.S. was the top driver on the men's World Cup circuit with Kaillie Humphries the top woman. Both won gold in Vancouver and might again this year. The U.S. has two Olympic track athletes on the women's team, with gold medallist Lauryn Williams and Lolo Jones qualifying as push athletes.

Did you know?

BMW doesn't just make fast cars. Their sled-building business will be on full display in Sochi, with Germans, Americans and Canadians — all medal favourites — among the nations racing in their sleds. And while those sleds bear the same logo, there's some significant set-up and technological differences depending on which nation's flag is affixed.



Canadian flag-raising

'Sense of majesty' at welcome party

As the sun set over Russia's Black Sea, it shined on the Canadian flag just as it was hitting the top of the flagpole with the national anthem playing in the background.

It marked an unofficial start at the Sochi Olympics for Canada. It didn't take long for chef de mission Steve Podborski to stop thinking about red and white and start dreaming about gold.

"When the Canadian flag went up, the sun is glaring on it, it blows out and you can see the Maple Leaf and I'm thinking, 'I'm sure we're going to hear more of that,'" he said. "It was really, really great."

Team Canada is welcomed by the official flag-raising ceremony on Wednesday in Sochi.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Before the flag went up, about a hundred Canadian athletes marched into the city's international plaza. They watched the Choir of Siberia sing and dance and a Russian honour guard march beside the stage.

It was an expression of Russian culture two days before the official opening ceremony in Sochi.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic relay. Flame reaches final destination

The Olympic flame reached Sochi Wednesday, following a 65,000-kilometre route, the longest in the history of the Games.

The relay generated genuine public enthusiasm, featuring famous cultural figures, athletes and other celebrities, and drawing big crowds across Russia.

But it also has seen some spectacular gaffes, with the flame flickering out on dozens of occasions and, in some cases, even engulfing the bearers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record-setting journey

The relay started in Moscow on Oct. 7 and stopped at more than 130 cities and towns across Russia. Along the way, the torch travelled to:

- **The North Pole.** Aboard a nuclear-powered icebreaker, the ceremony involved torch bearers from eight Arctic nations.
- **Outer space.** On Nov. 7, a rocket carried the torch to the International Space Station. Cosmonauts Oleg Kotov and Sergei Ryazanskiy then took the torch on an unprecedented spacewalk Nov. 9. For safety reasons, the torch didn't burn aboard the ISS.
- **Europe and Russia's highest mountain.** Russian mountaineers lit the torch atop Mount Elbrus, at 5,642 metres, the highest mountain in Russia and Europe.
- **The world's deepest lake.** In November, divers plunged into Lake Baikal, the world's deepest freshwater lake, with special torches burning underwater.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something will happen today that takes you by surprise but if you stand back and look at it in an objective light, you will see it had to occur. Chances are a few weeks from now, you will be glad it happened.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you go out and have fun or do you stay in and get work done? If you are smart — you will sacrifice short-term enjoyment for long-term peace of mind.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have thought about what you are planning and all you need to do now is get on with it. Don't worry that certain people may not approve. Most likely they're jealous.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
As Mercury turns retrograde today don't take anything for granted. But the world should not take you for granted either. Do something out of character, something no one would ever expect of you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Unexpected events will disrupt your routine today and you won't be happy about it. But as there is nothing you can do to change things there's not much point getting uptight about it, is there? Stay calm and carry on.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If a colleague makes an error and causes you problems today, don't make a big deal of it. Everyone makes mistakes so do what you can do make them feel better.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There will be disorder today, most likely at work. Colleagues may discover that they are not up to keeping the promises they made. You could see it coming, so you won't be fazed.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may have to be abrupt with certain people today, simply because they are too slow to work things out for themselves. Don't bruise egos for fun but make sure what needs to get done does.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With mind planet Mercury beginning one of its retrograde phases there is simply no point rushing to get things done. In the greater scheme of things, they're really not that important.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be careful when dealing with those whose outlook on life is different to yours. If you adopt the attitude that you're always right and they're always wrong, conflict is inevitable.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You try to be honest in your dealings but you just can't get through to people. This is likely to be a theme of the next few weeks while Mercury moves retrograde, so get used to it.

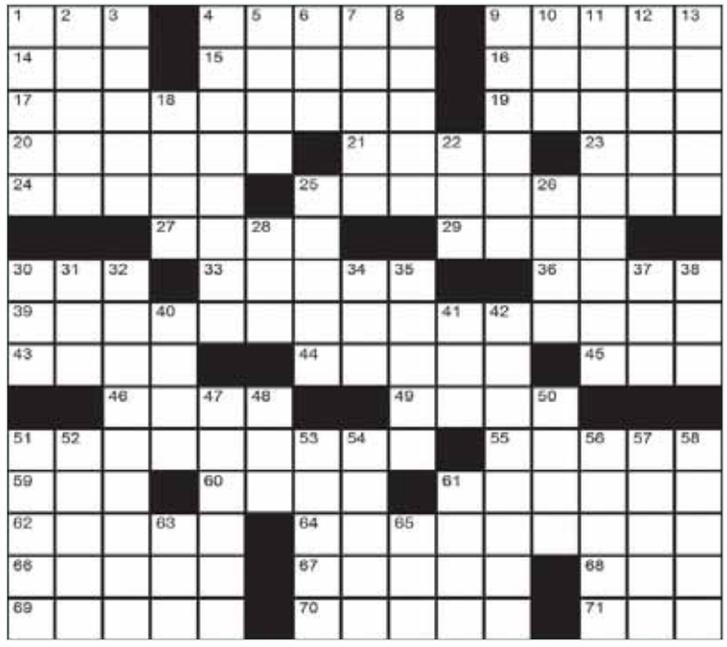
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You're hardly a decisive person and with Mercury, planet of communication and the mind, turning retrograde in your sign today you will change your mind yet again. Others won't like it but you are who you are.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Not near
4. Played over
9. "Batman" star Adam, and surnamesakes
14. Tenn. neighbour
15. Southwestern Ontario gorge village
16. Sir Newton
17. Wayne and Shuster: 2 wds.
19. Steamy spot
20. Geena's 1991 title role
21. Captain Hook's sidekick
23. Wine aperitif
24. Coffee brand
25. Helmet part: 2 wds.
27. Simon Cowell's production company
29. Athena's walkway
30. "__ sure be nice if..."
33. Some sound
36. Feminine suffix
39. PEI is geographically unique because it what?: 3 wds.
43. Uni
44. Also, in Montreal
45. Kit
46. "Wow."
49. Ages
51. Certain classical composer
55. Ms. Knightley
59. Marion __ (Pioneering female aviator of Canada, b.1918 - d.1995)
60. Use red pen
61. Did a sports team transaction
62. __-toothed tiger
64. Canadian actor who plays Captain Renard on "Grimm": 2 wds.
66. Carpeting 'spot'
67. "We Can Work __" by The Beatles
68. Navigator's dir.
69. Goes up-and-down in weight
70. Crowned heads in Russia, once
71. Brit's thank yous

Down
1. Actualities
2. Hawaiian hi
3. Noodle dish
4. Eddie __, Marius in "Les Miserables" (2012)
5. "Air Force One" (1997) actor Mr. Baskin
6. Towels holder
7. In _ __ (Hurried)
8. Ms. Watts
9. Most sage
10. Conductor, __-Pekka Salonen
11. Bigg Soxx: Canadian rapper on new song "Heroes" feat. Choclair, prod. by C4ENT.
12. Actress Ms. Raymonde
13. Cliff type
18. Deer sorts
22. Ells and Ems followers
25. __ _ phrase
26. Steel-__ boots
28. Lettuce variety
30. Doctrine
31. Even if, briefly
32. Splashy '80s Canadian series: 2 wds.
34. Old French coin
35. Actor, Buddy __
37. Three, in Turin
38. Ballpark fig.
40. Tooth part
41. Bear, in Barcelona
42. Hockey arena regulars, colloquially: 2 wds.
47. Martin and Charlie
48. Brick carrier
50. Char, in cooking
51. Domineering
52. Lyre-playing Muse
53. Sojourn
54. Mona Lisa's room at the Louvre in Paris, Salle des __
56. Boomtown Rats' "_ __ Like Mondays"
57. Queen: Spanish
58. Tools for woodworkers
61. Wee weekday
63. "Blame It on __" (1984)
65. "___ guy walks into..."

Yesterday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	7	1	2		3	4	5	
5	2						6	8
		3	9		2	8		
	6			4			2	
		5	3		7	6		
3	4						8	1
	9	7	5		1	2	4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	1	5	4	2	9	7	8
4	7	5	9	3	8	2	1	6
2	8	9	7	1	6	3	5	4
7	9	2	1	6	5	4	8	3
5	1	3	2	8	4	6	9	7
8	4	6	3	9	7	1	2	5
1	3	8	4	7	9	5	6	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	7	3	9
9	5	7	6	2	3	8	4	1

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-8°/-15°
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Friday
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